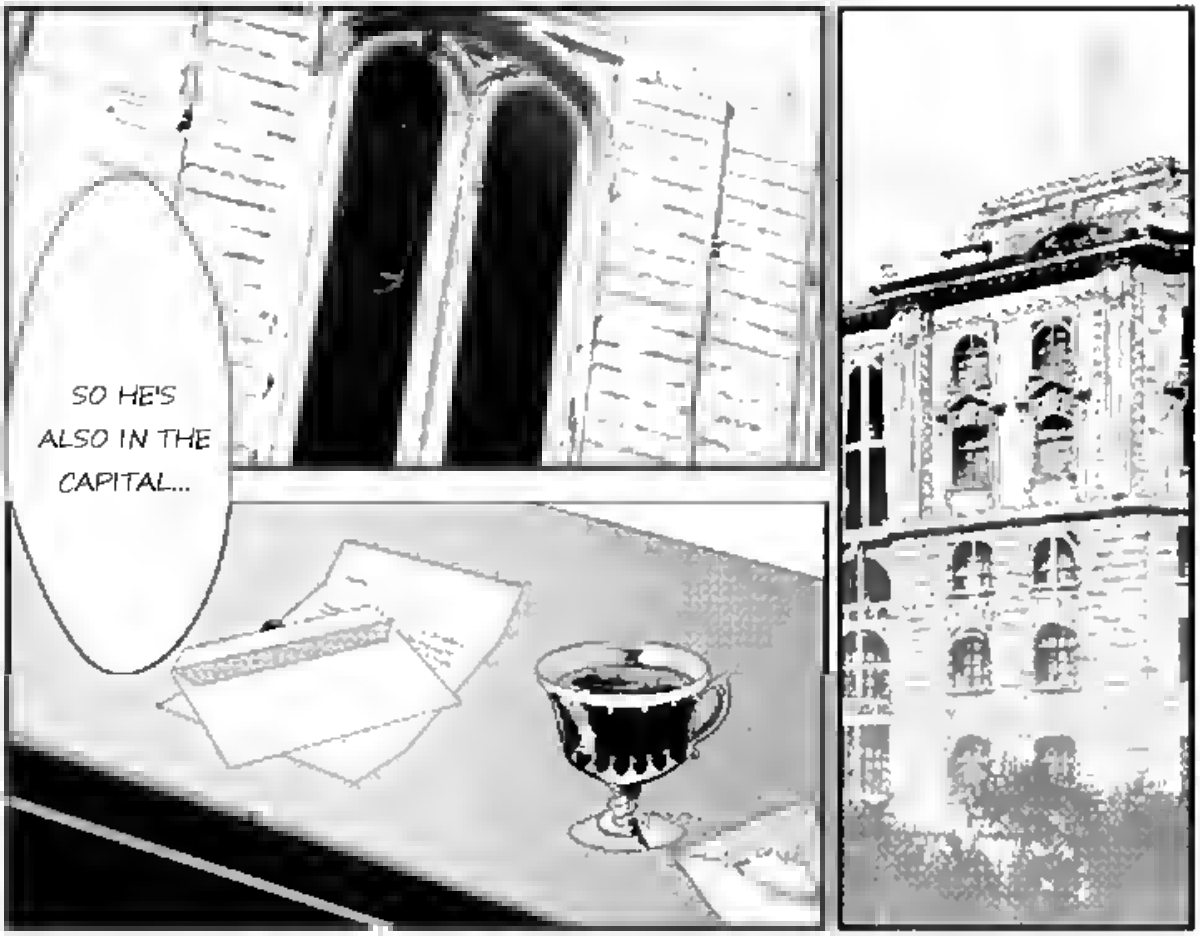
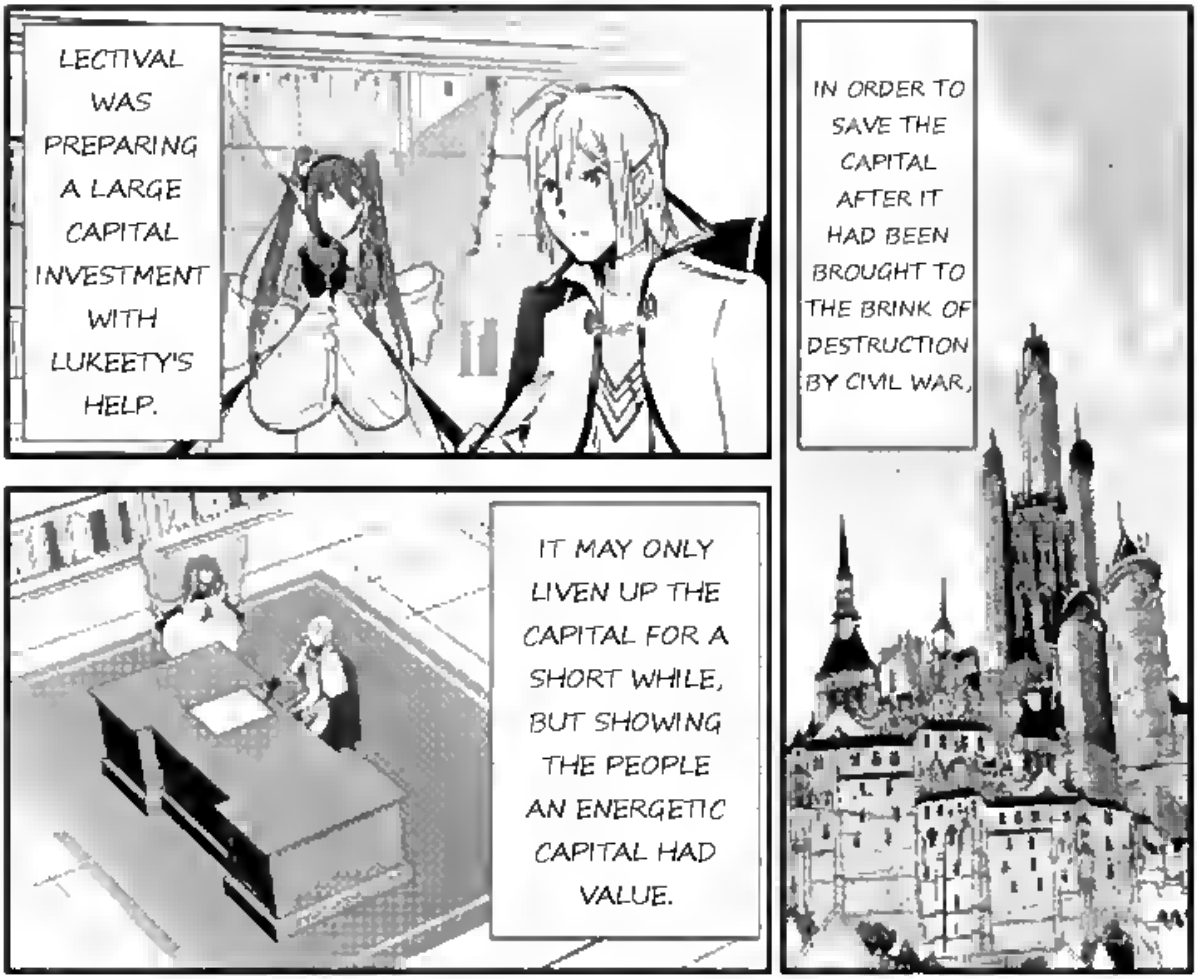
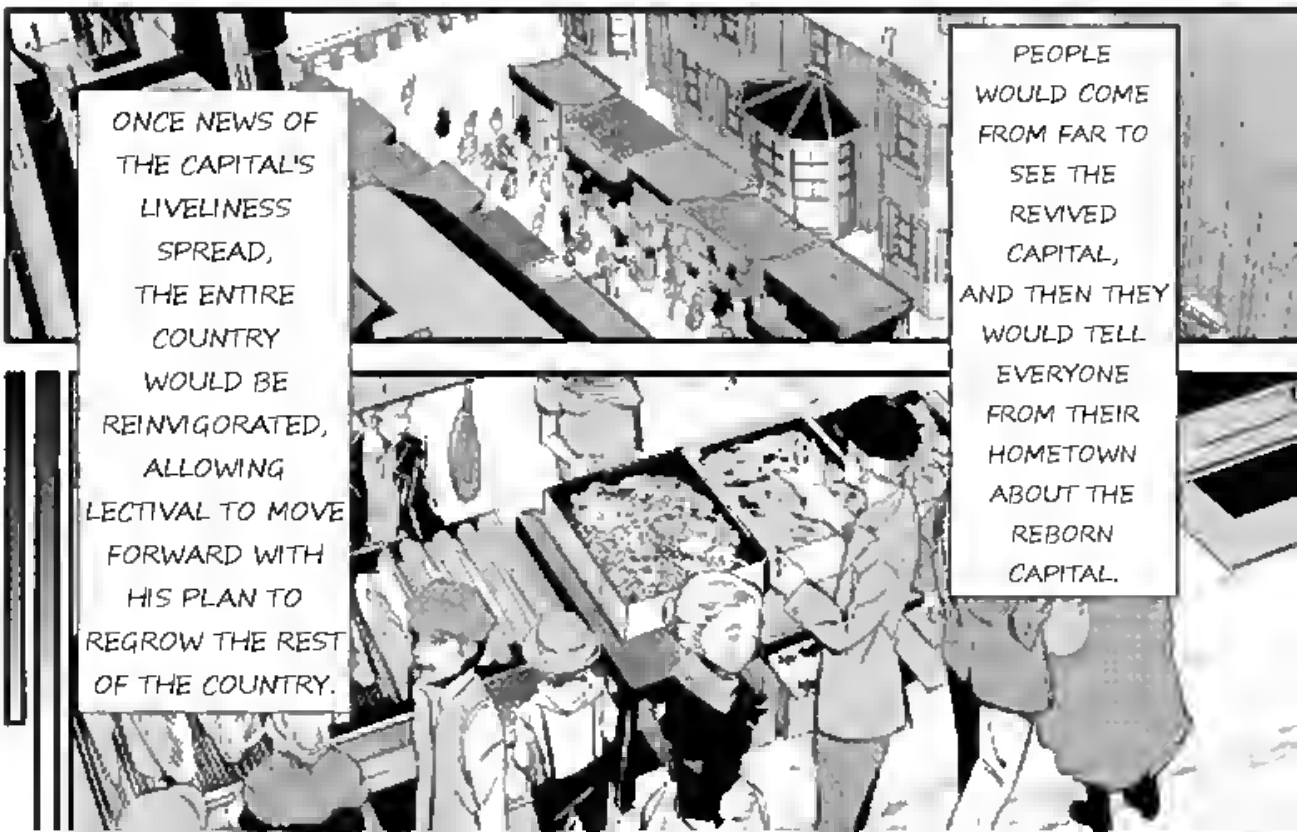

SO HE'S ALSO IN THE CAPITAL...

白の皇国物語 第四十三回
原作：白沢戎亥　漫画：不二まーゆ
IT'S QUITE CHILLY TODAY...


LECTIVAL WAS PREPARING A LARGE CAPITAL INVESTMENT WITH LUKEETY'S HELP.
IN ORDER TO SAVE THE CAPITAL AFTER IT HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION BY CIVIL WAR,
IT MAY ONLY LIVEN UP THE CAPITAL FOR A SHORT WHILE, BUT SHOWING THE PEOPLE AN ENERGETIC CAPITAL HAD VALUE.

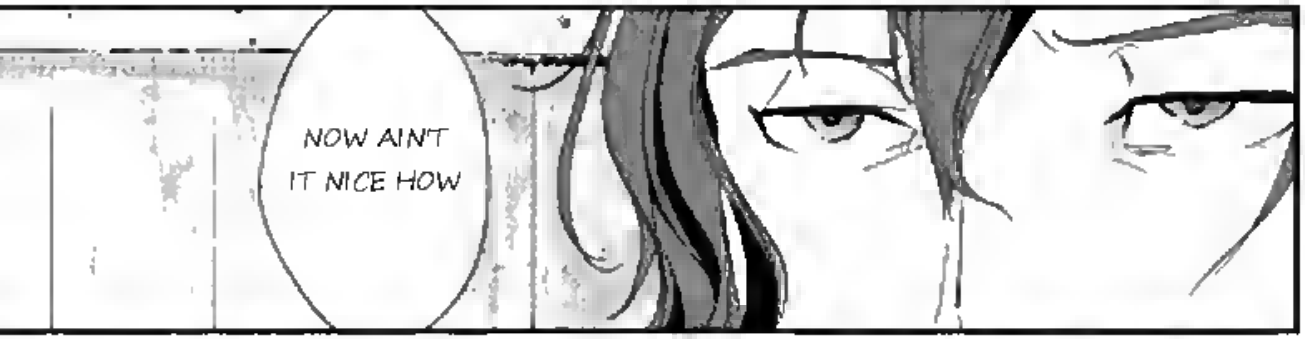

ONCE NEWS OF THE CAPITAL'S LIVELINESS SPREAD, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WOULD BE REINVIGORATED, ALLOWING LECTIVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH HIS PLAN TO REGROW THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.
PEOPLE WOULD COME FROM FAR TO SEE THE REVIVED CAPITAL, AND THEN THEY WOULD TELL EVERYONE FROM THEIR HOMETOWN ABOUT THE REBORN CAPITAL.

HEY, HOW MUCH, MISSY?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND, HOW ABOUT I BUY YOU?
HOW MUCH FOR ONE ROUND?
TSK, SHE'S ALREADY GOT A CUSTOMER...

THE CLOTHES OF A HARLOT SUIT YOU WELL.
SO WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO AN INN IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN?
DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU NEEDED FROM THE MAN YOU'D PREVIOUSLY LEFT?
MADAM ARCH-BISHOP NOW?
.....
OR SHOULD I CALL YOU
IT'S BEEN A WHILE MILE!...

CALLIAS, A MAN WHOSE FUTURE PROSPECTS ONCE LOOKED GREAT, LEADING TO HIM BEING PLACED IN CHARGE OF A UNIT OF KNIGHTS IN THE HOLY CHIVALRIC ORDER.
バンッ
DON'T TOUCH ME!
I HAD BEEN CHARMED BY THAT MAN,
AND DREAMED OF SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH HIM.
I HEARD YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S JOINED THE INNER PALACE.
ズイ
BUT HE NO LONGER RESEMBLES THAT MAN IN THE SLIGHTEST.

HOW ABOUT I SERVE AS YOUR PARTNER?
STOP IT!


NOW AIN'T IT NICE HOW

AFTER I WAS DRIVEN OUT OF THE CAPITAL.
I WAS WATCHING HOW YOU ROSE UP THE RANKS
YOU'VE BECOME THE REGENT'S SISTER-IN-LAW?

DID I BECOME A NUISANCE TO YOU THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO BECOME THE ARCHBISHOP?
IT'S AROUND THE TIME YOUR SISTER BECAME THE SHRINE MAIDEN THAT I WAS DEMOTED TO SOME POST IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
EVEN IF IT WAS TO SUSTAIN THE WAY OF LIFE YOU HAD CHOSEN, THAT WAS A BIT MUCH...
THERE'S NO OTHER REASON I WOULD RANDOMLY BE THROWN OUT.
THAT NORTHERN TOWN I WAS SENT TO WAS A TOUGH PLACE.

I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH THAT THE NOBLE WHO RULED THE AREA TOOK A LIKING TO ME AND EVEN CONSIDERED HAVING ME RETURN TO CENTRAL,
BUT THEN THAT CIVIL WAR MESSED UP EVERYTHING.
I DID ALL I COULD FOR THE NOBLE THAT LIKED THE KING,
BUT ALL OF MY EFFORT WAS IN VAIN...
IN THE END I LOST EVERYTHING...
CALLIAS,
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS LETTER?

PRIESTS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE WANT TO USE THE HOLY CHIVALRIC ORDER TO REVOLT?!
IF THE TEMPLE WERE TO USE FORCE, THE GOVERNMENT TAKE AWAY ALL OF OUR MILITARY POWER!
THERE WOULD BE NO ONE IN THE COUNTRY CAPABLE OF RESTRAINING THE GOVERNMENT THEN!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH INFLUENCE YOU HAVE IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE FORCE TO BACK IT UP!
THAT'S EXACTLY IT, MILEI.
THOSE GUYS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WANT TO REDUCE THE TEMPLE TO A MERE TEMPLE. I DO TOO, BUT NOT IN THIS WAY.
THEY'RE MAKING A DEAL. SOMEONE AMONG THEM HAS A CONNECTION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT,
OR MAYBE THEY'RE CONNECTED WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY.
A DEAL... IT CAN'T BE...

DO THEY WANT TO START A REBELLION WITH THE HOLY CHIVALRIC ORDER?!
EVEN IF THE REBELLION IS DEALT WITH, THE FACT THAT IT HAPPENED
WILL BE BLAMED ON THE TEMPLE AND CONSEQUENTLY ON LILICIA AND MYSELF! I NEED TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING!
AH!!
EXACTLY! WHEN PUBLIC ORDER WAS AFFECTED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, ONLY ONE GROUP COULD BENEFIT FROM IT...
BUT LECTIVAL IS DISMANTLING THE NOBLES' ARMIES...
KEPT EACH OTHER IN CHECK AT ONE POINT...
THE KINGDOM'S ARMY, THE NOBLE ARMIES THAT PROTECT THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND THE HOLY CHIVALRIC ORDER

I NEED TO TELL LECTIVAL ABOUT THIS IMMEDIATELY!
IF THIS REBELLION OCCURS, HIS PLANS FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE WILL SUFFER A SETBACK!
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING THIS PLACE.
IT'S FOR THEIR GOOD AS WELL, I MUST-

I HAD THAT LOCK ALTERED.
... CALLIAS, YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING WHAT SORT OF MAN LECTIVAL IS.
HE WOULDN'T ABANDON THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...
I STILL REMEMBER VERY WELL WHAT YOU DID TO ME.
I REMEMBER HOW YOU DISTANCED YOURSELF FROM ME FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR AND YOUR SISTER'S POSITIONS!

YOU NEVER CONSOLED ME OR REPRIMANDED ME SINCE THEN!
CALLIAS, STOP!
THAT WASN'T MY DOING!
YOU ACTED AS IF I DIDN'T EXIST!
THEN WHY DID YOU IGNORE ME AFTER THAT?
WAS IT FOR YOUR SISTER?
YOU'VE ALWAYS PRIORITIZED YOUR SISTER OVER EVERYTHING ELSE...

I HAD LOVED EVEN THAT PART OF YOU
AND HOPED THAT EVENTUALLY SOME OF YOUR LOVE WOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS ME...
THEY WISHED TO START A REBELLION WITH THE TEMPLE AND CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE AWAY THEIR POWERS AND RESTORE ITS OLD RIGHTS.
THE PRIESTS CONTACTED ME AFTER THE ARMY HAD DRIVEN BACK THE EMPIRE.
THE PLAN TO DESTROY THE HOLY CHIVALRIC ORDER WITH A REBELLION WAS CERTAINLY WELL THOUGHT OUT,
BUT THEY DIDN'T REALIZE THAT OTHERS WOULD START MAKING THEIR MOVES AS WELL.

THEY FOOLISHLY GATHERED UP DISGRUNTLED KNIGHTS FOR ME.
THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT KNIGHTS OPERATE PURELY ON IDEALS, BECAUSE MOST OF THESE GUYS ARE JUST THINKING ABOUT TAKING CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL AND GETTING RICH OFF IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR SISTER AFTER THOSE KNIGHTS ARE DONE RAMPAGING?
MY SOLE REMAINING GOAL IS TO TAKE YOU FOR MYSELF...

CALLIAS, THE LAST VESTIGES OF YOUR OLD SELF ARE GONE, YOU'RE JUST AN AVARICIOUS BEAST NOW.
WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY PLAN TO TAKE YOU AND GET REVENGE ON THE SHRINE MAIDEN THAT TOOK YOU FROM ME?

I WAS RIGHT TO HAVE TAKE THAT POISON JUST IN CASE, I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT TAKING THE ANTIDOTE ANYMORE.
方こ守り助も
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY FOR ME TO SAVE LILICIA NOW, I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP ON SAVING MYSELF.
り う
THOUGH IF I HAD KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, I WOULDN'T HAVE TRICKED THE GUARDS.
GIVING UP...
IT'LL SIMPLY LOOKS LIKE CALLIAS HAD CONSPIRED TO BETRAY ME AND KILLED ME.

TO THINK THE ONE I'D BE THINKING OF AT THIS POINT WOULD BE MY LITTLE SISTER'S HUSBAND...
THAT REMINDS ME, HE USED TO TALK ABOUT GIVING UP A LOT.
BUT LECTIVAL SHOULD BE ABLE TO AT LEAST SPARE HER LIFE...
LILICIA WILL PROBABLY BE TREATED AS A TRAITOR AND PUNISHED.

SHE WASN'T THERE...
WHEN HER SUBORDINATES WENT TO HER ROOM,
ELDER SISTER...
MY SISTER HAS DISAP-PEARED?!
WE BELIEVE SHE USED THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE TO ENTER THE CITY.
YOU MUSTN'T!
I SHALL GO SEE HIS HIGHESS!
MADAM LILICIA?!

I'VE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT MILEIDIA.
LILICIA, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ENTERING THE ROYAL CASTLE IS FORBIDDEN.
YES...
I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME, BUT DON'T EXPECT THIS TO HAPPEN A SECOND TIME.

GUARDS WITHIN THE CAPITAL ARE TO ENTER A STATE OF HIGH ALERT UNDER THE PRETENSE OF "SPECIAL NIGHTTIME TRAINING"!
WE CANNOT MOBILIZE THE ARMY BECAUSE OF THE BATTLE TO RETAKE THE CAPITAL.
YOU MAY BORROW THE SPECIAL SECRET UNITS WITHIN THE ARMY, BUT ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.
HOWEVER, THE VIPS IN THE ARMY ARE WAITING FOR AN ORDER.
MASTER LECTIVAL, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ASSIST IN THE SEARCH FOR MY SISTER.
IF WE WERE TO SEARCH FOR MAGIC SIGNATURES WITHIN THE CAPITAL THAT RESEMBLE MINE, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND
PLEASE

SAVE MY SISTER...
WE CAN FIND WHERE MILEIDIA IS.
THAT'S TRUE, IF WE DO THAT,
TEACH WHOEVER LAID THEIR HANDS ON MY WIFE'S FAMILY THE LAWS OF OUR COUNTRY!
LILICIA'S SHOWING HER RESOLUTION TO US HERE, I SHOULD...